

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2007. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 2-5, 7-15, 17, and 35 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 2, 17, and 35 are being amended. Claims 18-34 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 2-5, 7-15, 17, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over George et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,669) in view of Kracht (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,987). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is directed to a network configuration recognition method in which an Internet control message protocol (ICMP) echo request is sent from an administrator terminal implementing an standard network management protocol (SNMP) manager to individual network devices in the network node to detect existence and non-existence of network devices on the basis of responses therefrom, and then, plural SNMP messages one by one to the SNMP agents in the individual network devices of which existences in the network was detected are sent. In other words, SNMP requests are sent after communication based on an ICMP echo request is completed.

A network device sometimes operates as a router if the network device has at least two Network Interface Cards (NICs). On the other hand, even if the network device has at least two NICs, the network device sometimes operates as a terminal device where the NICs are not set up properly. In such a case, it is not sufficient only to refer to a Management

Information Base (MIB) by SNMP in order to correctly recognize the type of the device, because a device having at least two NICs each of which has an IP address may be recognized as a router if determined only by the MIB. Therefore, it cannot be determined correctly whether or not each IP address is connected to the network until polling operations to at least two IP addresses are actually performed by an echo request. In the method as recited in claim 2, the value of ipForwarding, for example, as shown in Fig. 13, is monitored. Also the DF-Term model, IF-term model, and SF-Term model, for example, as shown in Fig. 28, are used to determine whether an IP address of another segment is stored in a port. Alternatively, polling is performed by an echo request to detect whether a device includes at least two NICs. Thus, it is technically useful to send the SNMP request after the echo request.

In contrast, George merely states that the Server Module (SM) assigns each Input Output Module (IOM) a domain of subnets of networked devices to monitor a computer network by SNMP or by ICMP, while additionally promiscuously monitoring the local Ethernet for indications of device up and functioning status according to low level protocol analysis to establish a low device information, permitting only device state change message traffic between IOM and SM (col. 4, lines 52-61). George does not show or suggest sending an SNMP request after detecting the existence of network devices using an echo request. George merely shows monitoring a computer network by SNMP or by ICMP. Namely, George merely shows either one of SNMP and ICMP is used to monitor the network. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, George says nothing about the relationship between ICMP and SNMP.

The secondary reference of Kracht shows identifying the type of device MIB. However, Kracht does not show or suggest sending an SNMP request after detecting the existence of network devices using an echo request. Indeed, Kracht says nothing about the relationship between ICMP and SNMP. In other words, Kracht fails to provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that makes up for the deficiencies in George.

Therefore, at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would not and could not achieve all the features as recited in claim 2 by combining George with Kracht. Accordingly, claim 2 is not obvious in view of all the prior art cited.

Claims 17, 35

Claims 17 and 35 have substantially the same features as those of claim 2, at least with respect to the second step of sending the plural SNMP messages one by one to the SNMP agents in network devices which were detected by the first means. As such, the

arguments set forth above are equally applicable here. Claim 2 being allowable, claims 17 and 35 must also be allowable.

Claims 3-5, 7-15

As to dependent claims 3-5 and 7-15, the arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 2 are equally applicable here. The corresponding base claim being allowable, claims 3-5 and 7-15 must also be allowable.

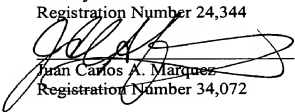
Conclusion

In light of the Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable action with regard to the present application, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

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